

a shroud for removably mounting on a hammer tool, the shroud having a forward end and a rearward end, a bore being formed through the upper shroud between the forward and rearward ends, the shroud having a rear portion located at the rearward end of the shroud for removably receiving a portion of the hammer device, the shroud having a front portion located forward of the rear portion;

a drive punch positioned in the bore of the shroud with a rear section for being impacted by the reciprocating impact member of the hammer tool and a forward end for impacting an object to be driven; and

A1 a guide bushing extending forwardly from the shroud, the guide bushing having a forward end and a rearward end, a channel extending through the guide bushing between the forward and rearward ends for receiving a portion of the object to be driven, the guide bushing being slidably mounted on the front portion of the shroud such that the guide bushing is movable between an extended position and a retracted position; wherein the channel of the guide bushing has a substantially uniform diameter along a length of the guide bushing.

Cancel claim 2

A2 3. The adapter of claim 1 additionally comprising an annular groove formed in an interior surface of the bore of the shroud, and a securing ring removably mounted in annular groove in the bore for holding the securing ring in a stationary position on the shroud.

Cancel claims 5 and 6.

A3 8. An adapter for converting a hammer tool into a multiple-impact object driving tool, the hammer tool having a housing with a barrel portion including a rear section and a nose section, a passage extending through the barrel portion with an opening in the nose

section extending into the passage, the hammer tool having a reciprocating impact member being positioned in the passage, the adapter comprising:

a shroud for removably mounting on a hammer tool, the shroud having a forward end and a rearward end, a bore being formed through the upper shroud between the forward and rearward ends, the shroud having a rear portion located at the rearward end of the shroud for removably receiving a portion of the hammer device, the shroud having a front portion located forward of the rear portion;

a drive punch positioned in the bore of the shroud with a rear section for being impacted by the reciprocating impact member of the hammer tool and a forward end for impacting an object to be driven;

a guide bushing extending forwardly from the shroud, the guide bushing having a forward end and a rearward end, a channel extending through the guide bushing between the forward and rearward ends for receiving a portion of the object to be driven, the guide bushing being slidably mounted on the front portion of the shroud such that the guide bushing is movable between an extended position and a retracted position; and

a muffling means for muffling noise and vibration mounted on the shroud for mounting on the hammer tool with the shroud and removal from the hammer tool with the shroud.

9. The adapter of claim 8 wherein the muffling means comprising a muffler member mounted on the rear portion of the shroud, the muffler member having a bore in communication with the bore of the shroud, an annular space being formed about the bore of the muffler member for extending about a barrel portion of the hammer tool when the shroud is mounted on the hammer tool,

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and a muffling material for absorbing vibration being positioned in the annular space for extending about the barrel portion when the shroud is mounted on the hammer tool.

10. The adapter of claim 1 additionally comprising a magnetic member mounted on the guide bushing for facilitating holding of an object to be driven in the guide bushing.

14. The adapter of claim 1 wherein an interior surface of the bore at the rear portion has interior threads formed thereon for threadedly engaging a helical groove on an exterior of a nose of the barrel portion of the hammer tool provided for accepting a retainer spring, and wherein peaks of the interior threads are semicircular in cross-section for engaging the helical groove on the hammer tool.

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15. An adapter for converting a hammer tool into a multiple-impact object driving tool, the hammer tool having a housing with a barrel portion including a rear section and a nose section, a passage extending through the barrel portion with an opening in the nose section extending into the passage, the hammer tool having a reciprocating impact member being positioned in the passage, the adapter comprising:

a shroud for removably mounting on a hammer tool, the shroud having a forward end and a rearward end, a bore being formed through the upper shroud between the forward and rearward ends, the shroud having a rear portion located at the rearward end of the shroud for removably receiving a portion of the hammer device, the shroud having a front portion located forward of the rear portion;

a drive punch positioned in the bore of the shroud with a rear section for being impacted by the reciprocating impact member of the hammer tool and a forward end for impacting

an object to be driven;
a guide bushing extending forwardly from the shroud, the guide bushing having a forward end and a rearward end, a channel extending through the guide bushing between the forward and rearward ends for receiving a portion of the object to be driven, the guide bushing being slidably mounted on the front portion of the shroud such that the guide bushing is movable between an extended position and a retracted position; and
A4 an extender assembly removably mounted on the shroud, the extender assembly including a collar extending about the shroud and an extender member pivotally mounted on the collar and extending forwardly past the forward end of the shroud and the forward end of the guide bushing, a foremost end of the extender member having a forked configuration for receiving a portion of a fastener to position the fastener as it extends into the channel of the guide bushing.

Cancel claims 18 and 19.

Please add the following claims:

20. The adapter of claim 1 wherein the uniform diameter of the channel of the guide bushing is slightly larger than a diameter of the forward end of the drive punch.

A5 21. The adapter of claim 1 wherein the shroud and the slideable guide bushing have an overall length, a length of the slideable guide bushing comprising approximately one-third of the overall length of the shroud and guide bushing.

22. The adapter of claim 1 wherein the forward end of the drive punch terminates at a forwardmost end of the front portion of the shroud.

23. The adapter of claim 1 wherein the forward end of the drive punch extends into the channel of the guide bushing when the slidable guide bushing is fully extended from the shroud.

24. The adapter of claim 15 wherein the forked configuration of the foremost end of the extender member includes a pair of converging edges in a concave configuration.

25. (Added) The adapter of claim 17 wherein the channel of the guide bushing has a substantially uniform diameter along a length of the guide bushing;

wherein the uniform diameter of the channel of the guide bushing is slightly larger than a diameter of the forward end of the drive punch;

wherein the shroud and the slidable guide bushing have an overall length, a length of the slidable guide bushing comprising approximately one-third of the overall length of the shroud and guide bushing;

wherein the forward end of the drive punch terminates at a forwardmost end of the front portion of the shroud;

wherein the forward end of the drive punch extends into the channel of the guide bushing when the slidable guide bushing is fully extended from the shroud; and

wherein the forked configuration of the foremost end of the extender member includes a pair of converging edges in a concave configuration.